



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, April 27, 2012

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Lee McIntyre, Amy Koel, Ted Kuklinski Carol Stapleton, Carol Schein

- **May 21st P & R Commission Presentation**

- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Sports Leagues and Ward Alderman have been notified of the Public Hearing next week after the April 23rd Commission meeting. Signs have been posted at each site notifying the park users of the public hearing and notification will be sent out to abutters.
- ✓ Mr. McIntyre recommended the group be prepared to clarify misinformation.
- ✓ Ms. Schein recommended posting the answer to typical questions to the webpage along with the details of each site.
- ✓ Ralph Ranalli, of Newton Girls Soccer commented the stakeholders should have been invited prior to the proposal being brought forward. An off-leash area is not a good use of the area. Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer invest a lot of money into Weeks Field; this is the premier site for soccer. Soccer fields are harder to come by. The Soccer Leagues are supportive of the idea of off-leash areas but not at Weeks Fields.
- ✓ Alderman Albright explained the Off-leash Area Working Group has been meeting for at least two years and reports to the P & R Commission on a monthly basis. All meetings are public and all information is public.
- ✓ Mr. McIntyre asked if the concern is the condition of the fields. Mr. Ranalli said yes. Mr. McIntyre asked if the league would object to a part of Weeks Field being used as an off-leash area. If the group & Mr. Ranalli looked at a map of Weeks Field maybe they could find a location for the off-leash area. Mr. Ranalli stated Weeks Field should not be used as an off-leash area; the league would help find a different location for the off-leash area. Mr. McIntyre commented OLAWG has looked at all of the green space in Newton and there is not a lot of land available.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis invited NYS & NGS to attend the next OLAWG meeting for further discussion.

- **Next meeting**

- ✓ The next meeting is Friday, May 4, 2012 at 9:30 am, Room 202, in City Hall.
- ✓ On the agenda: discussion with the soccer leagues regarding the 04-23-12 proposal.

Respectfully Submitted

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary